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Office of
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insider

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Governor proclaims “Hire A Veteran First Month”

Governor Ernie Fletcher declared April 2005 as “Hire A Veteran First Month” in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and encouraged all state businesses to provide employment opportunities to those who served in the armed forces. Also noted in the proclamation is that Kentucky is home to approximately 360,000 veterans and that the Office of Employment and Training serves the employment and training needs of over 30,000 of these individuals annually.

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The passage of the Jobs for Veterans Act, Public Law 107-288, established the President's National Hire Veterans Committee within the U. S. Department of Labor and authorized the secretary of labor to appoint its members. This committee has two missions:

- To furnish employers with information on the training and skills of veterans and disabled veterans, and the advantages afforded employers by hiring veterans with such training and skills.
- To facilitate employment of veterans and disabled veterans through participation in America's national labor exchange and other means.

The first step by this committee was the establishment of the Hire Vets First campaign. The proclamation was one of Kentucky's efforts to support the campaign and its veterans.



On March 23, Governor Ernie Fletcher proclaimed April 2005 as “Hire A Veteran First Month.” Penny R. Armstrong, OET executive director, (left) recently presented the framed proclamation to Rick Netherton, U.S. Department of Labor director of Veterans Employment and Training in Kentucky.

Three workforce boards receive funding

Bluegrass workforce board receives funding — Governor Ernie Fletcher, along with Workforce Commissioner Laura E. Owens, presented a check of \$87,500 to the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (WIB), April 11, 2005.



Governor Ernie Fletcher, along with Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens, presented a check of \$87,500 to the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Monday, April 11, 2005. Pictured receiving the Workforce Investment Act Statewide Employment & Training funds (left to right) are Everett Varney, Georgetown mayor and Bluegrass Area Development District (ADD) past chairman; Dodd Dixon, Winchester mayor and Bluegrass ADD secretary; Commissioner Owens; Rob Rumpke, Bluegrass WIB chair; Governor Fletcher; Bob Quick, Commerce Lexington executive director; and Luther Deaton Commerce Lexington chair.

These Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Employment & Training funds will be used to expand a regional planning effort currently being supported with WIA local formula funds. Currently formula funds are supporting the effort in 10 of the 17 counties, including: Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Madison, Jessamine, Woodford and Scott. These funds would expand the effort to the seven additional counties, including Anderson, Garrard, Harrison, Lincoln, Mercer, Nicholas and Powell.

“We are pleased to receive this funding. This project is a joint effort with Commerce Lexington, Inc. and the Bluegrass WIB. Our goal to align services will result in a more coordinated, cohesive demand-driven workforce training system for Lexington and the central Kentucky region. Our first major objective is to evaluate the delivery and efficiency of education, training, assessment, referral and other workforce services in the region,” stated Rob Rumpke, Bluegrass WIB chair.

Funds will be used to identify key workforce development issues to focus on over the five to ten years. Areas will include establishing a process to enhance the Bluegrass WIB’s ability to meet employer needs; creating a new way of thinking so that employer needs are driving workforce development in the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Area; and bringing the multitude of workforce development services together to better coordinate services.

Local workforce program receives coal worker training funds - Governor Ernie Fletcher, along with Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens, presented a check for \$250,000 to the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) April 11, 2005. These Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Employment & Training funds will be used to support incumbent worker training in the coal industry.

“Mines are having a very difficult time meeting the demands for production because of a lack of certified maintenance workers and certified underground electricians. The coal industry needs to upgrade the qualifications of experienced miners to fill these positions. The shortage of miners with these skills prevents mine operators from increasing production and hiring additional new miners. These are eastern Kentucky jobs that cannot be outsourced and the skills the miners will learn are highly transferable to other industries and occupations,” stated Mable Duke, EKCEP executive director.

Maysville team presents dynamics of Business Services

On Feb. 25, the Maysville Business Services Team presented information to the area One-Stop partners about the dynamics of Business Services.

The goal of Business Services is to bring people and resources together to achieve maximum growth for the TENCO Workforce Investment Area. The objective is to help local economies by focusing on businesses, employers' satisfaction, helping solve problems and building relationships.

The presentation was divided into three segments:

Recruitment Services -

- Job Analysis
- Job Posting
- Applications
- Referrals and Assessment Services

Training Services –

- Workplace Basic Skills
- Technical Training & Skills Upgrade
- On-The-Job Training

Employee Support Services –

- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Workforce Investment Act Services

The TENCO Workforce Investment Board developed the Business Services concept in 2003. A business services team was initiated in each of the three One-Stop Career Centers in the TENCO area, which serves Maysville, Morehead and Ashland.

The Maysville partners are comprised of local members from the Office of Employment & Training, Workforce Investment Act, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Maysville Community & Technical College, Adult Basic Education Programs, Department for Health & Family Services, Juvenile Justice, and Mason County Area Technology Center.

Three workforce boards receive funding (continued)

“We are pleased to receive this funding to meet an urgent workforce need. As always, EKCEP will use a portion of its WIA formula funds to address the training and placement needs of new employees; these additional funds give us an opportunity to address a very important training issue for incumbent workers,” Duke continued.



Governor Ernie Fletcher, along with Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens, presented a check for \$250,000 to the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP), yesterday, April 11, 2005. Pictured (left to right) receiving the WIA Statewide Employment & Training funds is Mable Duke, EKCEP executive director, along with Commissioner Owens and Governor Fletcher.

Incumbent worker training allows workers who currently have a job to upgrade their skills to meet their employers' needs. For information about the certified maintenance worker and certified underground electrician training program, employers should contact Crawford Blakeman at EKCEP (606-436-5751, ext. 13). Interested job seekers should contact Ken Enochs at EKCEP (606-436-5751, ext. 35).

See Page 4: Three workforce boards receive funding

Three workforce boards receive funding (continued)

Lincoln Trail Workforce Board receives \$250,000 check - Governor Ernie Fletcher and Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens presented a \$250,000 check for worker training to Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Board (WIB) officials April 11 at the Capitol in Frankfort.



Governor Ernie Fletcher, right to left, and Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens present a \$250,000 ceremonial check for incumbent worker training to Sherry Johnson, associate director of employment and training programs, Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Board (WIB); and Jim Skees, business liaison, Lincoln Trail WIB, April 11 at the Capitol in Frankfort. Photo by Tim Thornberry, Kentucky Education Cabinet.

Employment and Training funds will compliment other training incentive programs in the area and help our businesses in the Lincoln Trail WIA compete,” said Commissioner Owens.

Incumbent worker training allows workers who currently have a job to upgrade their skills to meet their employers’ needs. Examples of training include safety regulations, injection molding, machine tooling, blueprint reading and robotics.

“This grant from the Governor's Reserve Funds will be beneficial to business and industry in the eight-county Lincoln Trail Area. It will provide reimbursement assistance for eligible expenses associated with significant skills upgrade training for currently employed workers,” said Jim Skees, business liaison for the Lincoln Trail WIB.

“The results will be twofold: 1) it will support existing businesses in the retention and growth of their workforce, and 2) it will result in increased wages, individual career growth and development of promotional opportunities for the incumbent workers who receive training.”

For information about incumbent worker training, employers can contact Skees at the Lincoln Trail WIA at (270) 769-2393.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Employment and Training funds will support incumbent worker training for a variety of business and industry in the eight-county region, which includes Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington counties.

“To keep pace with other states, we must continually upgrade the skills of workers so that we can keep companies in our communities and attract more business. These WIA Statewide

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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